

Tale Feathers

Feb 2004

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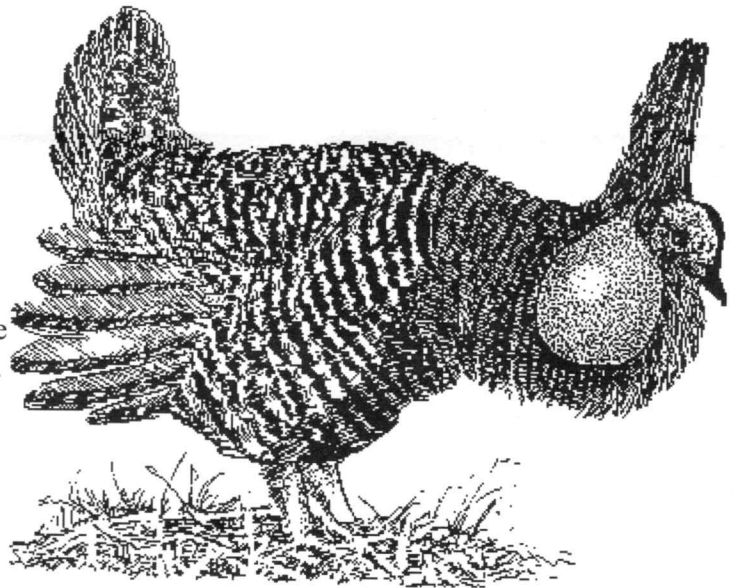
Barn Owl House
Building

The Greater Prairie Chicken in Missouri February Joint Meeting with WGNSS

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center.

Sharon Gough and Larry Mechlin, Missouri Department of Conservation biologists, will discuss the current status and conservation strategies for the Greater Prairie Chicken in Missouri. With an estimated population of less than 1,000, the state declared the bird endangered in 1998. However, with less than 10% of its original range remaining (and 97% of that on private land), coordinated efforts through groups like MDC and the Missouri Grassland Coalition will be vital to the Chicken's survival.

Sharon Gough has been with MDC for fourteen years, focusing mainly on the Prairie Chicken. Prior to joining the Department, she worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Peace Corps. Larry Mechlin has conducted research across the country, including Oregon, North Carolina, and North Dakota before



settling in Missouri. Prior to joining MDC, he worked at the Northern Prairie Waterfowl Research Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is our annual joint meeting with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, so you will have twice the people to meet and twice the opportunities to discover. The meeting is open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available.

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go ¼ mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas.

Community Center is in the basement.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

St. Louis Audubon Society

World Bird Sanctuary Events

Owl Prowl dates:

Jan. 16th, 23rd, 30th and 31st

Feb. 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th,

27th, and 28th.

WORLD BIRD SANCTUARY'S WORLD EAGLE DAY

Date: Sunday, March 21, 2004

Time: 11am-4pm

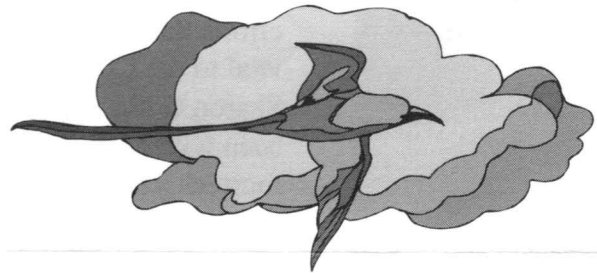
Cost: FREE

This event celebrates eagles from around the world. Join us to learn more about these majestic creatures as well as fun raptor facts with presentations from our Naturalists throughout the day. Family activities include face painting, build an eagle's nest, comparisons of the senses, kid's crafts, and more. Be sure to bring your camera!

President's Report

Bill Salsgiver

Our Board of Directors recently voted to accept an updated Strategic Plan for the years 2004 through 2006. Meetings to develop the Plan began in earnest last March with a review of our then current Plan. The Board of Directors helped to prioritize activities and a Planning Committee drafted a document from the collected input. It was time well worth taking, as the Plan will help us chart our course for the next three years. A few of the highlights include continued strengthening of our outstanding Education Committee efforts in community outreach presentations and the hiring of an Executive Director. Anyone who would like a copy of our new Strategic Plan should contact me and I'd be happy to send you one electronically or by regular mail. These will be exciting times with much to do. If you would like to see where you could help out, let us know. We'd love to hear from you. Oh, and please check out our newly revised Website. And let our Web Master or me know what you think.



Aldo Leopold's Challenge for Missourians Joint March Meeting with Sierra Club

Mark your calendar for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th at the Brentwood Community Center for our joint meeting with the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. Susan Flader, professor of history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will discuss the life and thoughts of Aldo Leopold and how they translate to our current challenges in Missouri.

Professor Flader teaches American and world environmental history and the history of Missouri and the American West. She has published several books and numerous articles on the career and thought of Aldo Leopold, including *Thinking Like a Mountain* (1974/1994) and *The River of the Mother of God* (1991). She has served as president of the Missouri Parks Association (1982-1986 and 1998-2002) and on the boards of the National Audubon Society, the American Forestry Association, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the L-A-D Foundation.

The Brentwood Community Center is at 2505 South Brentwood Boulevard, just north of the intersection of Brentwood and Manchester Avenue.

St Louis Audubon Society's Bi-Annual Birdseed Sales

Friday, February 27th from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday, February 28th from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Order for the early winter season and be the first on your block to start seeing the flocks migrate to your feeders. Order by Tuesday, February 24th for the 27th and 28th pickup. Seed must be picked by March 1st at the latest unless other arrangements have been made.

Make check payable to St Louis Audubon Society and mail to:
Anne Rankin Horton
718 Inglestone Court
Manchester, MO 63021
(636) 256-3402

Pick up will be at the Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur:
12792 Olive Boulevard
Bellerive Plaza
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
(314) 439-9453

Wild Bird Center is located approximately two mile west of I-270 near Mason Road and Timber Run in the Bellerive Plaza. Look for the store between Schnucks and Silkys. Any Audubon member who would like to shop during this time gets a 10 % discount off any merchandise purchased at the store.

Birdseed Order Form

Make check payable to: St Louis Audubon Society and mail to:
Anne Rankin Horton
718 Inglestone Court
Manchester, MO 63021
(636) 256-3402

NOTE: Order must be received by Tuesday, February 24th for processing

Bird Seed Type	Lbs/Bag	Qty	Cost	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb	_____	\$11	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$20	_____
No-Waste Mix				
no milo, has hulls	25 lb	_____	\$9	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$15	_____
Premium No-Waste				
no milo, no hulls	20 lb	_____	\$10	_____
	40 lb	_____	\$18	_____
SafflowerSeed	25 lb	_____	\$24	_____
	50 lb	_____	\$43	_____
Thistle/Niger	10 lb	_____	\$15	_____

Total_____

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

All proceeds from the birdseed sale fund
education outreach programs.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area Update

Tom Leiffield, Area Manager, Missouri Department of Conservation

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area has been a busy place since it re-opened to the public at the end of May. Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff estimate that over 100,000 people visited the area in the first seven months that the new facilities were open.

Quite a bit of construction is still in progress on the area. Projects that are currently under construction include, a Visitor Center, exploration stations and wetland management facilities. The Visitor Center will be located near the area entrance and will provide area visitors with the opportunity to get information about the area. This facility will also include a classroom for organized programs, exhibits about the habitats on the area and office space for area staff. Construction has been progressing well and this new feature should be open in the spring.

Eight exploration stations are being created along the road and trail system throughout the area. These stations will be located in a variety of bottom-land habitats and will provide an opportunity to learn about those habitats and their importance.

MDC staff are beginning to plan a Grand Opening event to be held this spring. This event will begin with a dedication of the new Visitor Center but will also feature the exploration stations and other new facilities on the area. Mid May is the target for this event but it is contingent on progress of the construction.

Construction of wetland levees, water supply pipelines and water control structures to create managed wetland pools on the area is nearly complete. Construction of a pump station to complete this wetland project will be started next summer and if all goes well, it will be completed early in 2005.

Many people have been enjoying the area and the new facilities. The continuing construction will add to the opportunities available on the area. We appreciate your patience as this work is completed.

Note: Directions to the area - take the "north loop" of I-270 heading east to the Riverview exit. Go north on Riverview to the signs for Columbia Bottom Conservation Area.

Butterfly Gardening

Backyard habitat specialists, Richard and Susan Day will present a slide show entitled "How to Create a Bird & Butterfly Garden" at 7:30 p.m. on **March 10, 2004**. It will take place at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

The Days' slide presentation will show you how to get started in landscaping your yard for birds and butterflies. They'll include hummingbird gardening, butterfly gardening, choosing plants for seed-eating birds such as goldfinches and cardinals, selecting the best trees and bushes for food and shelter suitable for our area, and including water in the landscape. The program will focus on any sized yard-from decks to large lots-offering dozens of tips to improve your habitat.

Susan will be available to personally autograph copies of her book, "The Wildlife Gardener's Guide to Hummingbirds and Songbirds From the Tropics." Join them for a lively evening at this outstanding photo presentation!

LET'S BUILD A HOUSE!

The Barn Owl is endangered. Of all our owls, it is the most dependent on humans for a nesting place. But old wooden barns and silos are falling into disrepair or being torn down, and the newer metal buildings replacing them are not owl-friendly.

The St. Louis Audubon Society plans to build a barn owl nestbox. We are partnering with Tom Leiffield, Manager of Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area in St. Charles County, to place the box on a site where Barn Owls have been seen and bred in the past. If we build it, will they come? We hope so, and we have plans to add additional houses, but first we want a model home complete with tenant to show other refuge managers. To see what our box will look like, go to Google with your computer and type in "teal ridge wetland" and "barn owl".

Would you like to help? If so, there are a number of ways. You can send a cash donation to help buy materials, you can donate the materials directly, or you can help with construction. To help, please call or e-mail Dency Kahn, (314) 997-4555, dkahn@stlcc.edu

Birding Trips

John Solodar

Feb 1, Sunday - WGNSS trip led by Bill Rowe. Start at Riverlands at the Teal Pond Parking lot at 8:00 AM. Bill's trips often go all day so bring a lunch, some water and warm clothes.

Feb 7, Saturday - This is a relaxed afternoon trip to Riverlands sponsored by SLAS. We'll start at 1:00 pm and Dave Rogles and John Solodar will be the leaders. The birds we hope to see are similar to those of the Jan 24 trip except that by being there in the afternoon we might pick up Short-eared Owls late in the day.

Feb 8, Sunday - WGNSS trip to Carlyle lake led by Kent Lannert starts at 8:30 AM. Meet at the McDonald's in the town of Carlyle, IL.

Feb 14, Saturday - Bundle up and head to Baldwin Lake for a 9:00 AM trip led by Jim Malone and Joe Eades for SLAS. Expect some Snow and Ross's Geese and and lots of other good birds at this Illinois lake. It's set up to be an all day trip so bring some water and lunch. Put some hand warmers in your gloves for good measure.

Feb 22, Sunday - Busch Conservation Area trip for WGNSS led by Tom Parmeter. Meet at the Headquarters at 8:00 AM.

Feb 29, Sunday - Bill Rowe leads another Mississippi trip for WGNSS. This one starts at Winfield Dam parking lot at 8:00 AM. The trip will proceed to Clarence Cannon NWR by 11:00 AM. Bring your lunch to eat at the refuge. Back to Winfield by 3:00 PM.

March 6, Saturday - This is the SLAS annual Woodcock and Owl Prowl to Busch Conservation Area. The folks who went during the March full moon last year had great views of flying woodcock at dusk and this year's trip coincides with the full moon. We'll meet with John Solodar at 4:00 PM in the Hampton Lake parking lot. There is a good chance to hear/see some owls as well.

March 7, Sunday - Tom Parmeter leads a WGNSS trip to Riverlands starting at 8:00 AM

March 14, Sunday - The first trip of the year to Horseshoe Lake in Illinois will be led for WGNSS by Kent Lannert.

March 20, Saturday - SLAS trip to Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Spring. Meet Paul Bauer and Mike Grant at 8:00 AM at the Hampton Lake parking lot within Busch.

March 27, Saturday - St. Louis County Parks Dept Bird-n-Learn bird walk put on by SLAS and led by Mary Dueren. This trip takes place within the Creve Coeur Lake/Little Creve Coeur complex (directions below) and starts at 8:00AM. The County Parks department charges a small amount if you sign up with them.

How to get there

Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

Baldwin Lake - Take I-270 across the Jefferson Barracks Bridge to Illinois. Take Hwy 3 south to Redbud. Go east on Hwy 154 to Baldwin, IL. Follow signs in town to Lake Baldwin. Meet at the boat launch parking lot.

Carlyle Lake - Take I-64 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit I-64 at Hwy 50 East (toward Carlyle). Follow Hwy 54 to Hwy 127 and turn left at the junction. Turn right into McDonalds. Meet in the parking lot.

Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. After going through the gate, turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot or turn right at the "T" to reach the headquarters building.

Winfield Dam - Take I-70 into St. Charles County to Hwy 79. Go north on Hwy 79 about 15 miles to Winfield. Just after you pass through Winfield and immediately after you go over a small bridge on the north side of town take a right turn onto a County Rd which may be N and may have a sign for the Winfield Ferry. Follow this for a couple of miles until you see a sign with a turn to the left for getting to Lock and Dam 25. Proceed to the parking lot next to the dam area.

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Exit at Hwy 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go about 2 miles to the State Park entrance (on the left). Meet at 1st parking lot on the right.

Creve Coeur Lake/Little Creve Coeur Lake complex. From the western leg of I-270 go west on Olive for 2.0 miles. Turn right on Creve Coeur Mill Road and travel about 1.5 miles to the green roofed building on the right, adjacent to Mallard Lake.

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, Vice President Conservation

On-the-ground conservation in Missouri's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program: The IBA program in Missouri has been officially launched, and we are pleased to announce that the nomination period for the IBA program is now open. The IBA nomination form, directions, and frequently asked questions about the IBA program are posted on the Audubon Missouri website at <http://www.audubon.org/states/mo/mo/>. Hard copies of the IBA forms are also available from St. Louis Audubon Society by contacting me at 314-968-8128. This is an excellent opportunity for birders to contribute their local knowledge of bird distribution and abundance to a meaningful effort to conserve birds and their habitats.

Andy Forbes, IBA Coordinator, provides the following additional information: To nominate a site for designation as an IBA, fill out the IBA nomination form and return it to the address shown on the form. Nominations will be reviewed by the IBA technical committee, and sites that meet pre-determined scientific criteria (see nomination form and directions for a more detailed explanation) will be designated as IBAs. These sites will provide Audubon and other conservation partners, including state and federal agencies, with a map of the highest priority sites for birds in Missouri, along with a detailed plan for the best way to accomplish their conservation. Nominations will be reviewed in mid-February so that the initial sites can be announced in early spring, so get your nominations in as soon as possible. The nomination/review process will be done on an ongoing basis after this first round of site identification.

Andy summarizes our program as follows: "The Missouri IBA program is part of a global effort initiated in Europe in 1981 by BirdLife International to identify, monitor, and protect the areas that are the most important to bird populations, in the face of increasing habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. The National Audubon Society, in partnership with

BirdLife, began implementing the IBA program in the United States in 1995.

The IBA program is unique among conservation planning efforts in that it takes a two-tiered approach to defining its focus areas. Like many other bird conservation planning efforts, we have enlisted the help of ornithologists from universities, biologists from state agencies, and other experts to identify IBAs and set the scientific background for the program.

However, the IBA program also builds upon the grassroots process of site nominations by local birding groups and birders. This provides the IBA program with "on the ground" strength unique among bird planning efforts.

By defining the areas that are most important to bird populations, and strategically focusing efforts on those areas, we can have a far greater positive impact with the limited funds that are available for bird conservation. As a testament to the effectiveness of this approach, the IBA program has been adopted as a key tool in the planning processes of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, the U.S.

Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan."

Again, this is an excellent opportunity for birders who care about the continued survival of bird populations to make a real difference in their conservation. By helping identify IBAs, you will be taking part in the first phase of stepping down a globally recognized program here in Missouri. If you have any questions about the IBA program, you can contact Andy Forbes at 573-447-2249 or at Andrew.Forbes@mdc.mo.gov. You can also find more information about the IBA program on National Audubon's IBA website at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html>.



New Members from November

Larry & Sue Bernsen
Joan Brucker
Jacqueline Campel
Ralph Dunajak
Laura & Bob Dupont
Shannon E. Eckert
Paula Eschamann
William Garig
Debbi Heffern
Evelyn Henis
Raymond H. Henning
Evelyn Horner
Kennedy Family
Fredric L.T. Lammert
Shari & Jarrett Langer
Dina Michael
Paula Mrozewski
Raymond Oberschelp
Marie Ranciglio
Donald C. Retkowski
Richard Roman
Lois Root
Marybelle Snyder
S.E. & Ruth Taylor
John Wallis
Gail Watson
Winter
Chester Wright
Luke A. Sadlo

New Members from December

Steve Adams
Dot Anderson
David Arnold
Raymond Bernsen
Jane Bigogno
Lynn Braadt
Anna Brasher
Patricia Burke
Mary A. Cahoon
Anthony Candela
Liffian Civil
Betty J. Crowder
Joanne Darabsek
Jessica Dewald
The Dolls
Wayne M. Dowden
Joy Duckworth
Harry C. Eggleston
Joyce Endicott
Jusy Engel
Terence Filkins
Harold Gaebe
Hildegard L. Glover
Marie Gokenbach
Rita M. Hammer
Aaron B. Harris

George F. Heimann
Charles Hoessle
Teresa Hoormann
Alfred Hortmann
Sherrie Hummel
Kathleen Jenkins
Sue F. Jones
Kathryn T. King
Ruth Koch
Pat Kostecke
Richard Lamonica
Steve R. Luebke
Carolyn M. Machino
Ed and Ginny McGue
Dorothee Meehan
Patrick A. Morgan
Sally Morgan
Suzanne Brian Mueller
Keith Murray
Cal Nicholason
Patricia Osdoby
Rose Pahlmann
Richard Parvis
Ricky Pererson
James A. Piel
Thomas Quinlan
Janine Rieger
Kathleen Rose
Diane Sanders
Rosetta Satterfield
Donald K. Schuster
Kathy E. Shaffstall
Calvin C. Smith
Jennifer Smith
Stephen Smith
Sam Snyder
Mary A. Tiemeyer
Wilbert Trapp
Mickey Ulmer
Patrick Vastola
Marshall A. Jeanet Wade
Bonnie Wagner
John Walters
Carol Wojciechowski
M. Wood
Evan Wright
Sally M. Roberts
Eliot Simon

Transfers

Katherine L. Geist

**Welcome to all our new
members!**

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2003 - 2004

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John Solodar	314-862-5294
Mike Thelen	314-862-6642
Linda Tossing	314-849-4260
Dave Tylka	636-942-3142

Attention!

The deadline for the March issue is **February 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net
phone 314.832.0938
post 6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116

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As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____ Membership / \$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402

_____ Introductory Membership / \$20 _____ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

_____ Senior Citizen (62 and older) / \$15 (New and renewal) _____ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

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_____ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ NO1 7XCH